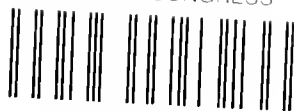


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Sixty-Sixth Congress, Third Session

House Document No. 1021

# JOHN L. BURNETT

(Late a Representative from Alabama)

## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

DELIVERED IN THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE  
OF THE UNITED STATES

SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

Proceedings in the House  
January 25, 1920

Proceedings in the Senate  
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# DEATH OF HON. JOHN L. BURNETT

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## PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

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MONDAY, *May 19, 1919.*

The Chaplain of the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fifth Congress, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Father in Heaven, once more in the swift flight of time Thou hast brought us to a new Congress, now convened in extraordinary session by the President of the United States of America.

Under the changed conditions in human events the call is imperative and will tax the ingenuity and statesmanship of its Members. Great are the problems confronting it. Questions of moment wait upon it for solution. Hence we pray for Thy wisdom to guide it, Thy strength to sustain it, Thy courage to inspire it to deliberate yet speedy action.

Let Thy blessing descend upon the Speaker of this House and the Representatives of the people that he may guide with a firm and strong hand its Members to the highest and best solution of the great questions at home and abroad; that its acts may be to the best interests of all concerned and redound to the glory of the living God, our Heavenly Father.

Since the Sixty-fifth Congress passed into history two of its Members who had been elected to serve in this Congress have been called to the larger life. Their work well done, strong friendships formed, their going brings sadness to many hearts. We pray for those who knew and loved them, especially their respective families, that

they may be comforted by the eternal hope of the immortality of the soul. This we ask in the name of Him who died and rose again. Amen.

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. JOHN LAWSON BURNETT, a Representative from the State of Alabama.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate a copy of these resolutions to the Senate.

The resolution was agreed to.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Waldorf, its enrolling clerk, announced that the Senate had passed the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. JOHN LAWSON BURNETT, late a Representative from the State of Alabama.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

*Resolved*, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now adjourn.

Mr. MONDELL. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representatives, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 18 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 20, 1919, at 12 o'clock noon.

SATURDAY, *December 20, 1919.*

Mr. RAINEY of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House hold a session on Sunday, January 25, 1920, for the purpose of enabling the Members to pay

tribute to the memory of the late JOHN L. BURNETT, of the seventh district of Alabama.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Alabama asks unanimous consent that a session of the House be held on Sunday, January 25, 1920, to pay tribute of respect to the memory of the late Representative BURNETT. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

SUNDAY, *January 25, 1920.*

The House met at 12 o'clock noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Father in heaven, look down from Thy throne of grace with kindly eyes and an approving heart, upon us, as we thus assemble within this historic Chamber, to pay a tribute of love and respect to two men who by dint of their own efforts, inspired of Thee, left a deep impression upon the hearts of their countrymen and writ in characters of gold a history upon their State and Nation. Long may their memories live in our hearts and on the pages of history, that they may be an example to us and to those who shall come after us; and we will ascribe all praise to Thee.

Comfort us, their colleagues and friends, their stricken families, with the truth that life is immortal and some day, somewhere, we and they shall meet again in a realm where love ties shall never again be severed.

When the mists have rolled in splendor  
From the beauty of the hills,  
And the sunshine warm and tender  
Falls in kisses on the rills;

We may read love's shining letter  
In the rainbow of the spray;  
We shall know each other better  
When the mists have cleared away.  
We shall know as we are known,  
Never more to walk alone  
In the dawning of the morning,  
When the mists have cleared away.

Amen.

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolutions which I send to the desk and ask to have read.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. JOHN L. BURNETT, late a Member of this House from the State of Alabama.

*Resolved*, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House, at the conclusion of the exercises of this day, shall stand adjourned.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions.

The resolutions were agreed to.

Mr. BLACKMON assumed the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all who speak or desire to print their remarks on the life, character, and public services of the late Representative BURNETT may have permission to extend their remarks in the Record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

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### ADDRESS OF MR. HEFLIN, OF ALABAMA

MR. SPEAKER: Here in this Chamber where the States of the Union speak through their Representatives in the National Congress, JOHN L. BURNETT was, for more than 20 years, an able and faithful Representative of the people of the seventh congressional district of Alabama, and, long before his splendid career here ended, he had become greatly appreciated and highly esteemed by the people throughout the State. Not only the people of his own district but the people all over Alabama were deeply shocked and grieved by the sad news of his death.

His was a very noteworthy and unique career. He was truly a self-made man. When the war between the States ended he was only 11 years old—a poor boy—the eldest son of a widowed mother. It fell mainly to his lot to support his mother and the younger children. In spite of the hardships and privations that the fortunes of war had placed in his way this brave and determined youth succeeded. In the daytime he worked in the field and in coal mines in order to provide for those dependent upon him and at night he studied that he might obtain an education. Mr. Speaker, he told me that it was a happy day in his young life when by his industry and enterprise he was enabled to attend the common schools of Cherokee County. He was educated in the common schools of his native county and in the Wesleyan Institute at Cave Springs, Ga. He studied law at Vanderbilt University, and when 22 years of age was admitted to the practice of the law by the circuit court of his home county in Alabama. It was not long from that day until he was regarded as one of the very best young lawyers in his section, and at the time he was elected to Congress he had

achieved the distinction of being one of the ablest and most successful lawyers in the State.

Mr. Speaker, the boy surrounded by hardships and privations can find inspiration and encouragement in the brilliant achievements told in the story of the life of JOHN BURNETT. The poor boy battling with the handicaps and hindrances of poverty will find help in the story of his successful and useful life.

When a very young lawyer he had developed into an attractive speaker, an able and convincing advocate. Through his open, frank, and friendly manner he soon became exceedingly popular with the people. When 30 years old he was elected a member of the lower house of the Alabama Legislature and two years later was elected to the State senate. He made a splendid record in both branches of the legislature.

He was remarkably well equipped with the attributes of mind and heart necessary to make him an effective and useful public servant. He was able and earnest in every cause that he espoused.

Mr. Speaker, he came here as a Representative in the Fifty-sixth Congress, and for a little more than 20 years he was the able and honored Representative of the people of the seventh Alabama district. The good people of that district have in the past honored other distinguished sons with a seat in this body, but never in all its history has the district sent here a man more esteemed and loved by the rank and file of its people. He was democratic in his habits and manner. He believed in the doctrine of the Democratic Party and sincerely believed that the affairs of the Government could be more wisely administered by the great party to which he gave allegiance. He was an ardent Democrat, a strict and faithful party man. All during his life, in season and out, he championed the cause of the Democratic Party. He was a man of deep

convictions and of strong personality, and he was truly a statesman in a high and useful sense. At times he was an aggressive, intense antagonist, but always as generous and forgiving in the aftermath of bitter debate as he was brave and fearless in the conflict. He was a man of studious habits and of tremendous energy.

Throughout his long service here, he was known as an active, hard-working Member. He believed in the gospel of work as did Gen. Pettus, of Alabama. On one occasion some one asked Gen. Pettus, then 80 years of age, when he was going to quit work, and the grand old man replied, "A man should never quit work. A few years of idleness and he loses his health. A few years of idleness and his mind is gone. It takes activity to keep the mind alert and the body strong." JOHN BURNETT was an indefatigable worker. He was an enthusiastic disciple of the doctrine announced by Gen. Pettus. He ate no idle bread. From the time he entered Congress to his death, he was truly a studious and hard-working Congressman.

Mr. Speaker, ours is a representative form of government, the wisest and best form of government ever devised by the genius of man, and when a man is elected to represent his people in this great law-making body, it is his duty to study the questions that concern his district and the country and to strive to do that which will redound to the benefit of his people and the good of his country. And no higher expression of confidence and affectionate regard can come to a Member in his service here than that which the people themselves give through their votes of approval in each succeeding election. For 20 years the people of the seventh district of Alabama commissioned JOHN BURNETT to represent them in the Congress of the United States. They delighted to honor him. In 11 congressional elections, they expressed with their votes their appreciation and love for him, and at the

time of his death he was strong in the esteem and affections of his people.

Mr. Speaker, it can be truly said of him that he loved and served his fellow man. He sprung from the ranks of a great common people and was himself a man of the people. He was the friend of the common man in the common walks of life. In his long service here, he rendered distinct and signal service to his State and Nation.

He was one of the very first men in Congress to call attention to the evil and danger of allowing indiscriminate and unfit foreigners to be landed upon the shores of America, and as chairman of the Committee on Immigration, he aroused the people of the Nation to the importance of keeping undesirable and dangerous foreigners out of our country. Year in and year out he stood here guarding, to the day of his death, American ideals and institutions against the influx of criminal hordes from foreign countries.

He was a man of superb intellect and fluent speech, and whether in debate in this forum or out on the hustings, he was a foeman worthy of any man's steel.

He had the courage of his convictions and was absolutely fearless in the advocacy of any cause that he espoused. He was a painstaking and conscientious public servant, and all who knew him know that he performed his duty as God gave him the light to see it.

JOHN BURNETT was blessed with a bright and cheerful disposition, pleasing and amiable to a remarkable degree. All in all, he was rich in the attributes of a noble character.

When 32 years of age he was married to Miss Bessie Reeder, of Cleveland, Tenn.

His home life was beautiful. He was fortunate in marrying one of the noblest and best women of his day. She was indeed his inspiration and helpful companion.



She sympathized with him and assisted him in his great life's work. He was devoted to her and their married life was a beautiful and happy life. He had only one son, a splendid and manly young man, and he was the idol of his good father's heart.

Mr. Speaker, just a few months ago the distinguished man, whose death we mourn to-day, was an active and influential Member of this body. Just a little while ago he was participating in the debates, answering the roll calls, and serving as we are now in the great Congress of the United States. But he has made his last speech, answered his last roll call, and ended his career of useful service here. He has gone the way that we must all one day go, but he is not dead. He has but entered into the joys of the higher life, the life that awaits the faithful at the end of the earthly road. I believe that all is well with his soul. He was a good citizen—an able and faithful public servant. He loved his State and contributed to its marvelous growth and development, and he served his country faithfully and well. His death was a sad blow to his loving wife and son and to his friends and people, and in his taking off the State and country have sustained a great loss.

Mr. McDUFFIE assumed the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

## ADDRESS OF MR. CLARK, OF MISSOURI

MR. SPEAKER: JOHN L. BURNETT was my personal and political friend. As such I will cherish his memory so long as life lasts. He was a capable, clear-headed, industrious Member. He was a great chairman of two important committees. He wrought honestly, successfully, and patriotically for his country and his countrymen. He was one of the crack debaters in the House. He was exceedingly tenacious of his opinions. Above all, he was unafraid. His style of speaking was terse, luminous, nervous. His voice had a clarion quality and reached every nook and cranny of this great Hall. He injected just enough of wit, humor, and sarcasm into his speeches to render them pleasant to the ear.

He studied his subjects thoroughly and was master of the facts on any theme which he chose to discuss. He never had a sleepy audience.

Those who have practiced public speaking to any considerable extent know that it is more difficult to make an effective short speech than a long one. The correspondent of the London Times who wrote a note to that ancient paper that he was sending a long letter because he had not the time to write a short one was a great philosopher. Mr. BURNETT was particularly happy in short speeches, snappy, pointed, powerful. After listening for 25 years in this Hall to every sort of speech known among men I give it as my critical and solemn opinion that Brother BURNETT delivered the best short speech I ever heard at any time or place. Most people—including many Members—do not realize that the best debating in the House is under the five-minute rule, the study of which rule and practice under it I cheerfully and earnestly com-

mend to the newer Members if they aspire to rank with the powerful debaters in the House. It is well worth their profoundest consideration. BURNETT was a master of this most difficult species of speech making.

In a five-minute speech you can not have an exordium and a peroration. You must grab the idea in the middle and ram into it as much language and thought as possible. I want now to relate a little experience which I had. The other night I concluded to hunt up John C. Calhoun's proposition to have two Presidents of the United States, one North and one South, nothing to be final as a law unless both of them signed it. So I got down Col. Benton's *Thirty Years' View*, one of the most valuable books ever published in America, and without which no gentleman's library is complete, to hunt up this Calhoun business. Benton talks about everything on the face of the earth in that book. I got to nibbling at it, and kept on until I ran into a chapter that I had forgotten he ever wrote—about the hour rule in the House. He denounced that as one of the most outrageous things ever committed in a free country. The majority of the Senate took the same view of it.

There is not a man in the House who would vote to repeal the hour rule. If we did we would never accomplish anything. Yet there was that great statesman, the greatest statesman the western country ever had, in conjunction with a majority of the Senate, denouncing it as a positive curb on free speech and free thought in this country. The history of that hour rule is very brief. When Henry Clay broke up with John Tyler he was not a political boss, he was a political czar. He would get a Whig bill through the Senate, and they would send it here to the House, and Henry A. Wise, who had the most astounding vocabulary of all the children of men, with two or three others to help him, would kill Clay's bill—talk it to death.

Clay was one of the most imperious of mortals, and he got very tired of that. He came over here to the House, where he did not belong at all, and got the House to adopt the hour rule, simply to put a bit in the mouth of Henry A. Wise, but when he went over to the Senate, where he did belong, and tried to get them to adopt the rule, they turned up their noses at him, and they have been turning up their noses at such a thing ever since.

A few years ago there was a great uproar about cloture in the Senate. Finally they got a cloture rule in the Senate, and it is the most remarkable thing which was ever put into print. When two-thirds of the Senate petition the Vice President to put the question of cloture, he puts it, and then if they adopt it, it is put in force, but each Senator, 96 of them, has an hour in which to discuss that same rule, and that amounts to 18 legislative days. I think the five-minute rule is the best rule on the subject of speech making that was ever devised by the wit of man, and there never was a man in this House in my time who knew better how to use it than Mr. BURNETT.

He rendered most valuable service as chairman of two great committees—Immigration and Public Buildings and Grounds—and was one of the most valuable Members of the House.

In private intercourse he was a delightful, cheerful, genial, entertaining companion. He is greatly missed and sincerely mourned by all who knew him.

## ADDRESS OF MR. DENT, OF ALABAMA

MR. SPEAKER: It is always more or less painful to reflect upon the life of a departed friend. Yet there is some satisfaction in recalling the memory of past associates when death, which is beyond our control, has taken that friend away. When I speak of JOHN L. BURNETT as a friend, I speak with a candor that emanates direct from the heart. Though somewhat separated in years, our association was always cordial, congenial, and companionable. I have missed his hearty and his whole-souled greeting, and to-day it is difficult for me to realize that JOHN BURNETT is not still one of and among us.

JOHN L. BURNETT was small of stature, but big of heart and brain. He had a fondness for children that was genuine and spontaneous. For his fellow man he had the utmost, the kindest, consideration. It was these qualities of the heart that drew men to Mr. BURNETT, as he came in contact with them in the affairs of life. He had a clear, clean, and conscientious intellect. He was courageous, physically, mentally, and in politics.

He honorably served the State in which he was born as a legislator in both houses of that Commonwealth and in the halls of Congress. In the labors which he gave to his State and to the country he was always affable—a quality not to be scorned; he was always industrious—a quality never to be overlooked; and he was above all efficient—a quality always to be admired and respected. For 20 years he served the people of Alabama and the country in the halls of Congress with honor and distinction, gaining and retaining the respect and confidence of those with whom he was associated.

We mourn his loss, Mr. Speaker, but console ourselves with the reflection that his labors have not been in vain. I could say more—I could say much more. I could go into the details of his long and honorable career, but what is the use? His history is made, and he leaves behind him a record, of which his family and his friends may well be proud.

## ADDRESS OF MR. CLARK, OF FLORIDA

MR. SPEAKER: When I came here as a Member of this House for the first time at the beginning of the Fifty-ninth Congress, among the men I found here who had already demonstrated exceptional ability stood JOHN L. BURNETT, of Alabama, whose passing we mourn to-day. I soon formed his acquaintance, and I had not served long in this great body before it was my good fortune to be placed on the same committee with him, where we served together for eight years. This threw me into very close contact and association with Mr. BURNETT, and I learned to know him intimately and well. A goodly portion of the time of our service here together we lived in the same hotel, and I was thus permitted to know him well both as legislator and as man. We became close friends, and when the sad news of his departure reached me, my heart was saddened to the depths and I felt that I had lost more than a friend.

Mr. Speaker, JOHN BURNETT was as careful and as conscientious a legislator as it has ever been my pleasure to be associated with. He was constant in his attendance on committee meetings, and no question was too great for his alert and active mind to grapple with, nor was any question too small or insignificant for him to give it attention. He was as true and loyal a Democrat as ever graced this Hall, but in legislative matters he was first, last, and all the time an American patriot who never allowed partisanship to swerve his sound judgment. He loved his country as a loyal son loves his mother, and probably his greatest work upon this floor was his magnificent effort to protect his beloved country from the

flood of anarchistic aliens which threatened to engulf us. The greatest tribute we can pay to his memory will be to carry on the great work which he began and partly accomplished, until we shall reach the stage where no anarchist, bolshevist, I. W. W., or other cattle of that stripe, by whatever name known, will feel at home in America. BURNETT was 100 per cent American in his every thought, word, and deed, and had no patience with hyphenated Americanism, no matter from what quarter of the globe it hailed.

Mr. BURNETT was not only a hard-working, conscientious legislator, but he was a safe counselor and a convincing advocate. He was not known in the House for his much speaking. In fact, he rarely addressed the House, and never did he do so unless he had something of importance to say. But, Mr. Speaker, I remember occasions when this House has been raised to its feet in approval by the convincing power of his logic. Great by virtue of his brain; great by virtue of his industry; great by virtue of his conscience; great by virtue of his patriotism; great by virtue of his honesty; great by virtue of his humanity, Alabama, rich in her numberless great sons, has sent to Congress no nobler soul than JOHN L. BURNETT.

A devoted, loving husband, a tender, affectionate father, an upright citizen, a faithful friend, a loyal patriot, an able legislator, an honest public servant, and "the noblest work of God"—an honest man—with his head pillowed upon the bosom of his beloved Alabama "he sleeps well."



## ADDRESS OF MR. OLIVER, OF ALABAMA

MR. SPEAKER: In the short time allotted to Members on these occasions it is not possible to attempt even a brief review of the useful life of our beloved colleague, the Hon. JOHN LAWSON BURNETT.

In Congress and elsewhere he filled many positions of great trust and responsibility, and his conspicuous service has embalmed his memory in the hearts of a grateful people, not only in his district and native State, but in the Nation at large. His memory is linked for all time with legislation of highest import and Nation-wide in scope.

He was essentially a leader, one who accomplished results, and in the attainment of his objectives his record will disclose that he had no standard but honor, no watchword but duty, no purpose but the uplift and betterment of mankind. As citizen, lawyer, representative in both houses of the Alabama Legislature, in the halls of the National Congress, in the home, in the church, in the circle of friendships, he measured up to the ideal standard, and when he fell asleep just before the convening of this Congress in extraordinary session, there ended a physical life well spent and crowned with good works and noble deeds.

If you ask what phase of his life most impressed his friends, I answer—his great love, his keen interest, his warm sympathy for the poor and those in distress. He was proud of his humble birth among the hills of the good old county of Cherokee, and some time, let me ask, that you read again two remarkable speeches that he made early after he entered Congress. One of them will unfold to you his high devotion to his people—his broad humanity—qualities always present and so noticeable in his

public and private life; the other will unfold his remarkable ability as a lawyer and his broad vision as a statesman. I quote the introductory of his first speech, made on December 14, 1899, just 10 days after he took the oath of office:

I come fresh from the hands of the mountaineers of north Alabama, among whom I first saw God's sunlight, among whom I first breathed the pure mountain air, and with it inhaled the very inspiration of liberty itself. Among these people I first learned to hate tyranny and to despise the tyrant, whether it came in the form of some despot himself or that of despotic influence and interests, which step by step sap the lifeblood of freedom and bind her votaries hand and foot.

\*     \*     \*     \*     \*

In the cabins and in the cottages upon the mountain tops and in the valleys of my native heath lives the yeoman, surrounded by his toil-worn wife and his little flock. God grant that no act or vote of mine may ever add to the burdens which they now bear, and that in every word I utter and every vote I cast, while I stand as their Representative upon this floor, I may have no higher motive and no loftier aim than to promote their best interest and alleviate their condition. Then, when I return to my home, I can look them in the face and say of a truth "Thy people are my people, thy country is my country, thy God is my God."

He passed away with the blessed consciousness that he had lived up to this high concept of duty to his constituency. The loss of a friend like this can but serve to deepen the views of life of those of us who remain, and make us feel that we would not always be here. It is the great argument for immortality. For we can not believe that the living, loving soul of JOHN BURNETT has ceased to be. We can not believe that all those treasures of mind and heart are squandered in empty air. We will not believe it, and when once we understand the meaning of the spiritual, we see the absolute certainty of eternal life. We need no argument for the persistence of being. To appear for a little time and then vanish away is the out-

ward biography of all men—a circle of smoke that breaks, a bubble on the stream that bursts, a spark put out by a breath. But there is another biography, a deeper and a permanent one, the biography of a soul. Everything that appears vanishes away—that is its fate—the fate of the everlasting hills—as well as of the vapor that caps them.

But that which does not appear is the only reality, it is eternal and passeth not away. So beneath the life of JOHN BURNETT, which has vanished away, there is a vital thing, the spirit. We can not locate it and put our finger on it, and that is why it is permanent. So friendship does not lose by a death like this. It lays up treasures in Heaven, and leaves the very earth a sacred place, made happy by holy memories. “The ruins of time build mansions in eternity.”

We do not ask to forget, we do not want the so-called consolation which Time brings; we would rather that the wound should ever be fresh than that the image of a friend like him should fade. He has simply joined the choir invisible.

Of those immortal dead who live again  
In minds made better by their presence; live  
In pulses stirred to generosity,  
In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn  
For miserable aims that end with self,  
In thoughts sublime that pierce the night like stars,  
And with their mild persistence urge man's search  
To vaster issues.

ADDRESS OF MR. TAYLOR, OF ARKANSAS

Mr. SPEAKER: The honorable gentlemen from Alabama who have just spoken have told us of the life and career of Judge BURNETT in his State and here. I only knew him as a Member of this House. I first met Mr. BURNETT early in the year 1913. From the very beginning of our acquaintance a warm friendship seemed to spring up between us. He had learned that my mother was born and reared in north Alabama, and this fact seemed to draw him closer to me. He was a devoted son of his State, loved her people, and was proud of her history. Judge BURNETT was a man of splendid ability, and without the trappings of wealth or aid of a great family name he plunged into the vortex of popular rights and made for himself a name which reached beyond the borders of his State. Among the great and learned he did not claim to be supreme, but among his people, I am told, he was a conquering power and was loved and admired. He rose, so to speak, from obscurity to the heights of renown and died on the crest of popular esteem. His rise was not meteoric, but steady and sure. He reached the sun-clad heights of his ambition and passed away with the illumination undimmed and left his countrymen the record of his splendid life work. He was devoted to his family, his country, his political party, and his district which had so often honored him. He loved his fellow man. For poise of mind, eloquence, and concentration of thought he had few equals in the House. He was always manly and kind in debate and spoke directly to the question at issue.

For two or three sessions Mr. BURNETT and myself boarded at the same hotel in Washington, and with him there I learned much of his inner soul. He was a great

lover of children. When you find one, Mr. Speaker, who takes notice of and loves children you can mark him every time as being worthy of your friendship and admiration. One of the joys of Judge BURNETT on winter nights was to congregate the children at the hotel and tell them Alabama and other southern stories of the "Uncle Remus" sort, and teach them to sing old-time songs with him. At these gatherings I often looked on with delight at the glad-some and wondering eyes and faces of these little people as they stood encircled around the knee of Judge BURNETT, who to them was a big man, and they were right. I often thought while looking on how beautiful and loving it was to see a statesman in Congress forget for the time matters of national concern and legislation that he might contribute with his whole soul toward cheering and making happy children assembled about him from many sections of this country. He may be forgotten by some, but these little ones will lovingly remember him through life.

I never saw Judge BURNETT manifest gloominess or become morose, but, on the contrary, in greeting his friends and fellow Members he was always cheerful and buoyant. Oh, Mr. Speaker, if the world was filled with JOHN BURNETTS it would be a happier and grander world within which to live. When a giant carrying easily the loads of life in the fullness of his strength falls dumb and prostrate on the earth, heart stricken by the darts of death, we, his surviving friends, gather in confused agony around his unbreathing form and unavailing tears spring unbidden to the surface and baptize with sorrow's sacred streams the pale countenances of those who loved him while he lived. How utterly powerless, Mr. Speaker, do we feel in death's mysterious presence.

While acting on the stage of life down in Alabama the grim messenger with the inverted torch appeared and beckoned Mr. BURNETT to depart, and when he passed

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE BURNETT

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from this life into the door of “forever—forever”—  
those who knew and loved him turned with heavy hearts  
to one another, and with weeping eyes hoped for him  
that—

Somewhere the sun is shining,  
Somewhere the angels wait,  
Somewhere the clouds are rifted  
Close to an open gate.

ADDRESS OF MR. ASHBROOK, OF OHIO

MR. SPEAKER: I received no special invitation to speak to-day, but I would like to add just a word of tribute to the memory of my good friend, for whom these services are held to-day. When I first came to Congress, 13 years ago, I felt in as great need of friends and a kindly word of advice and encouragement as anyone who ever sat in this Chamber. There were a few of the older Members who manifested some interest in me, and I shall never cease to feel indebted to them. Among this limited number who won my lasting gratitude was our dead friend whose life and character we to-day eulogize. And may I say that I have since endeavored, as best I could, to pass on their good deeds by lending a helping hand to the new Member.

I recall that Congressman BURNETT was a member of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds and on the subcommittee which included my State in the Sixtieth Congress, my advent here. I was quite anxious to have an item in the omnibus bill for that Congress. Mr. BURNETT heard me patiently and sympathetically and reported favorably on my proposition to the full committee and it was accepted. When the bill was reported to the House, however, my item was not in it. I learned a political adversary from my district came down to Washington and overnight put the skids under my bill. I informed my friend. Then did the shortest man in stature in the House rise in height in my eyes and estimation until he seemed to tower above our old friend Cy Sulloway, of New Hampshire, who was the tallest man in the House, and who, too, has since passed on. He boldly called to the attention of the chairman of the committee on this

floor the mean trick served me and succeeded in getting my item back in the bill.

From that day on I was a fast friend of JOHN L. BURNETT. As our acquaintance aged my admiration for him grew until I looked upon him as one of my best friends here. I lived at the same hotel with our departed friend for a number of years. I knew him intimately and well. If he had any enemies here I did not know it, nor do I know why he should have, for he was one of the most lovable men I ever knew.

Congressman BURNETT's activities in immigration legislation made his name almost a household word all over our country and the world. The Burnett Immigration Law is a lasting monument to his memory. He was a ready, forceful debater. Few men could acquit themselves on their feet as well. He was honest, conscientious, square, and fair, and commanded respect and admiration alike on both sides of the aisle. For over 20 years he served his district and country faithfully and well. Suddenly, and with little warning, in the midst of his usefulness, he fell like an autumn leaf, and I doubt not when his soul appeared, naked and alone, before the Great White Throne, that he heard the welcome words from the Just Judge, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord."



ADDRESS OF MR. STEPHENS, OF MISSISSIPPI

MR. SPEAKER: JOHN LAWSON BURNETT and I were intimate friends. We spent many pleasant hours together and I desire to pay tribute to his memory.

He was a high type of American citizenship, believing in the principles which the fathers handed down in institutions in which are centered our happiness, security, and destiny.

His idea of good government was one moralized and spiritualized with the principles of liberty, equality, justice, and opportunity, regulated by righteous law and inspired by a righteous people.

He believed that private virtue and public morality are the essential foundations of good government; and that the future of the Republic depends upon the personal and political ideals of the people. He had faith in private virtue, commercial honesty, the energy of law and political honor—faith in their strength to give vitality and length of days to the Nation.

He knew that history teaches that mental power and moral principle must journey forward side by side; that the glory of a nation's life is in its character and manhood; and that the only way to develop civilization on the outside is to develop it on the inside.

He traveled the highway of life a friend of education, an advocate of the higher virtues, an ardent lover of the institutions of his country, never following after false political gods and never turning aside to the eccentric, the abnormal, the low, the base.

Believing in these principles, being inspired by the highest patriotism, he was a leader in the fight to restrict foreign immigration; and he left, as an everlasting legislative and political monument to his memory, the Burnett immigration bill.

Those who heard him can never forget with what intensity and eloquence he pleaded for the passage of that bill, for the protection of the institutions of the Republic against the invasion of aliens whose presence would constitute such a menace to all that we have been taught to revere and hold sacred.

Courage is one of the lordly virtues. Great souls are brave souls. That JOHN BURNETT possessed courage of the highest order no one will deny. He never measured his duty by the applause of the hour. No threatened unpopularity of his views ever caused him to withhold their expression when it was his duty to speak. No "word well smoothen" ever fell from his lips in order that he might curry favor.

Some men can stand erect only when wedged in a crowd. It was not true with him. He was willing to stand alone, supported only by his own approving conscience.

His courage, his ability, his eloquence gave strength to any cause he advocated; and these qualities made him a dangerous antagonist. When he believed that chastisement was merited by an opponent he did not hesitate to administer it, and he knew how to use the lash and make it cut deep.

He was acquainted with the common sorrows of mankind, and so, in joy and grief, he was prepared to enter sympathetically into the conditions surrounding his fellow men. He had all the primary affections, the noble passions, the sweet emotions that make the true man.

Knowing him as I did, I am confident that he had learned the “Great Lessons” so beautifully phrased by the poet:

So did I learn  
The first great lessons: mark ye them, my sons,  
Obedience is nobility; and meek  
Humility is glory; self alone  
Is base, and pride is pain; patience is power;  
Beneficence is bliss.

## ADDRESS OF MR. TILLMAN, OF ARKANSAS

MR. SPEAKER: For a time the BURNETT family and my own lived at the same hotel in Washington, and during this period I improved the opportunity to acquire an intimate knowledge of the softer side of the Congressman's nature. His heart was as gentle as a woman's. His hand was ever open and ready for generous deeds. He loved children, and organized a club of little folks, and under his guidance this club had weekly meetings, at which its members sang songs, told stories, gave readings, and rendered programs consisting of a wide variety of literary exercises. These children loved Mr. BURNETT and he loved them. It is a delightful habit of a strong nature like his to unbend now and then, to forget the affairs of state, to revel unselfishly in the innocent pleasures of little people, to teach them, and to train them, as he did, for a useful future. Not one of these tots, now that this man is gone, but will remember the kindly touch of his vanished hand; not one will forget the cheerful sound of his pleasing voice now stilled by death.

The dead statesman was dwarfish in stature, but he had the soul of an eagle and the heart of a lion. He was active on the floor of the House, and instead of avoiding debate he rather courted controversy. In truth he was strong in argument, was a tireless worker, and loved a fight. This David with sling and pebbles never shirked an encounter with any Goliath of Gath who challenged him to combat in the forum or on the hustings, and usually the fight terminated as did the one described in First Samuel XVII between the handsome shepherd lad, David, the son of

Jesse, and the bulky Philistine measuring six cubits and a span in height.

Our friend told me that when he was first elected to Congress he expected to remain here but a short time, yet he was elected 11 times, served for 20 years, and died in harness. He stated also that he never failed to have opposition, and this fact accounted in a large measure for his long service. His combative disposition asserted itself here again. He often affirmed that if he could be elected one time without opposition that he would retire from the House to private life. He looked forward with keen pleasure to the time when he could retire and spend the evening of his days in peace and quietude. Like most of us he was beginning to tire of the lure of political life with its noisy phantoms, its paper crowns, and its tinsel gilt.

JOHN LAWSON BURNETT was born at Cedar Bluff, Cherokee County, Ala., January 20, 1854. He lived, died, and was buried in the great Commonwealth that gave him to the country. And he so lived that Alabama, his mother, thrilled with pride when sorrowing friends placed his sturdy little body to sleep forever in her brave and generous soil. Alabama, glittering jewel of the old South; rich, flashing, glorious gem of the new South! Alabama is the calla lily of the South, a land of orchard and grain, a land of cotton and corn, a land of mines and factories, a land of hazy Indian summers, a land of gorgeous sunsets—and the moon sails through the blue seas of her glorious nights like a ship of pearl. Alabama, a land of enchantment and variety, here a stately country home, there a big plantation with its broad fat acres laughing forth a harvest of good things. The mocking bird sings until midnight among her purple apple blossoms. Here the tall and fragrant pine, there the cedar, dusk and dim; here the virile oak, there the branching elm; here the stately mountain range, there a lake of silver; here by the roadside a bubbling spring

ever holding up its pouting lips to be kissed by the thirsty traveler, there the model farm where

We hear tinkling in the clover dells,  
The twilight sound of cattle bells.

Alabama has given to the country a thousand patriots and a thousand great men, and she gave to this generation JOHN LAWSON BURNETT, clean, brave, manly, possessed of a chaste honor that felt a stain like a wound, possessed of the unpurchasable graces of life and character, such as sterling honesty, spotless purity of soul and conduct. We need more of the fine audacity of honest deed, more of the homely old integrity of soul such as he had and cultivated.

Mr. BURNETT died suddenly and without warning, but he was prepared for death and did not fear it. This was his creed:

I do not fear to tread the path that those I love have long since  
trod,  
I do not fear to pass the gates and stand before the living God.  
In this world's fight I've done my part and God is God, He knows  
it well.

JOHN LAWSON BURNETT wore the white flower of a blameless life. His conscience was his king. A long good night to this rare spirit.

## ADDRESS OF MR. WILSON, OF LOUISIANA

Mr. SPEAKER: When I first came to Congress I was placed upon the Committee on Immigration, of which the late Judge JOHN L. BURNETT was chairman, and during my service on that committee became intimately acquainted with his fine qualities as a man and his marked abilities as a statesman. The passage of the Burnett immigration bill was the crowning achievement of his legislative career, and the most conspicuous accomplishment of his long public service.

The history of that legislation is somewhat unique in the proceedings of Congress. Beginning with the veto by President Cleveland, in 1896, for more than 20 years one of the storm centers of congressional debate and action, in party platforms, and in national campaigns was the literacy test as applied to immigration, the principle of which was to make our immigration selective and as finally adopted in the Burnett bill. The final passage over the veto of the President, in 1916, of this bill, which had received the approval and indorsement of both branches of Congress on six separate occasions in a period of 20 years, and halted by the vetoes of three Presidents of the United States, is a striking instance of the triumph of public opinion in America as reflected in the Congress.

The brilliant and effective work of JOHN L. BURNETT in connection with this measure won for him a fame that was national and a reputation that was international. During the consideration of this and other problems assigned to us the committee was often astonished at the complete grasp of every phase of the immigration question shown by Chairman BURNETT, and the scope

and exactness of his information relating thereto. In my opinion the final passage of this bill over the last presidential veto was due largely to his fine leadership and superb ability.

Judge BURNETT was a man who attracted in close attachment and esteem those who knew him intimately. He was always frank, open, and aboveboard about everything, courteous and kindly in speech and action. He was a man of courage and independence, and had the fortunate quality of being able to bring all his fine intellectual powers into action instantly upon every question which he chose to champion. This made him a ready and effective debater upon this floor. He enjoyed the respect, esteem, and confidence of the Members on both sides of this Chamber. In his death his State, the Congress, and the country sustained an immeasurable loss.

Shortly before he returned to his home the members of the Committee on Immigration, of which he had been the honored chairman, and upon his retirement from that position, presented him a token of their love and esteem, and in his parting words, mingled with tears, he left an impression which will never be forgotten by the members of that committee, who admired and loved him.

As a friend who has been intimately associated with him I deem it a great privilege to add my humble tribute to his memory, which we all honor and revere.



ADDRESS OF MR. BANKHEAD, OF ALABAMA

MR. SPEAKER: It is a mournful but nevertheless a tender privilege to speak a few words of eulogy in memory of the admirable character and accomplishments of our late colleague and comrade in service, JOHN L. BURNETT. Knowing as I believe I did the absolute sincerity of the man—his abomination of sham and pretense—any attempt at fulsome praise of his talents or his services on this occasion would be repugnant to my conception of the words he would have us say.

Although Mr. BURNETT had been a conspicuous public man in Alabama for many years, it was not my good fortune to know him intimately until I began my service in the Sixty-fifth Congress. Two of the counties of his old district now are a part of mine, and being my geographical neighbor as well as the dean of the Alabama delegation when I began my service here, I naturally sought and always secured his counsel, advice, and unreserved admonition.

It was not a formal, perfunctory, superior kind of interest he took in me, but genuine, sincere, disinterested, helpful. It was characteristic of the man—a helping hand extended to another who needed it.

I shall not attempt any biographical reference to our departed friend. That duty has been admirably and fully accomplished by my colleagues who have already spoken.

If I should be asked to designate the outstanding characteristic of this man's make-up, the immediate response would be "Courage of conviction." He did not rush to a conclusion upon grave public questions. He always wanted to know the facts, he desired to hear the argument, he sought a just and logical conclusion, and when

he reached a conclusion convincing to himself he declared it, and fought for it to the end.

He was not only courageous in conviction, but he was preeminently combative to sustain his conception of the right position. He did not believe in the soft and vacillating methods of attack or defense. He despised ambush warfare. For him the open field and the onslaught direct. He believed in giving hard blows. He knew equally well how to take them.

That was his method on the hustings, and his method here. He seemed to glory in drawing the fire of an adversary because he had the consciousness that he could always return it "in full measure and running over."

I heard Speaker Champ Clark once say that he regarded JOHN L. BURNETT as the best "rough and tumble" debater on either side of the House of Representatives.

While the people of his district and State loved and admired our lamented colleague, he did not belong to them alone. He was a servant of a larger constituency—the whole American Republic! He was recognized as the highest authority here on the great problems of immigration and naturalization in his lifetime, and now of paramount importance. He stood for the doctrine "America for Americans," and his earnest and invaluable efforts for a decent restriction of undesirable immigration not only have been transcribed into our statutes but go marching on in the quickened and awakened consciousness of millions of Americans of the menace of the unassimilated mob. His death was not therefore a local or sectional loss alone, for this Nation suffered a blow when JOHN BURNETT died.

It is no small thing for any man to be elected once to the House of Representatives. It is a position of honor and high responsibility. But when a man comes here for 20 years in succession, despite the enemies he makes in

politics, despite the disappointments of opposing ambitions, despite the errors of judgment he may make, and dies in harness still serving his people, that man has achieved a great career. And when coupled to that long tenure is the record of a high position with his colleagues, the unstinted respect and confidence of his political adversaries, and the knowledge of those who survive him that he rendered conspicuous and outstanding service to his country, and who passes away "surrounded by the proud and affectionate solicitude of a great constituency," has indeed left to his family and friends a career to be admired and cherished forever.

Friend, neighbor, comrade, rest well.

ADDRESS OF MR. HUDDLESTON, OF ALABAMA

MR. SPEAKER: I can not refrain from adding my tribute to the memory of our departed friend.

When I first entered Congress Mr. BURNETT was the dean of the Alabama delegation, the senior in point of service among the Alabama members. As was proper, I showed him the respect and confidence due a senior by conferring with him frequently about matters touching our delegation and the interests of our section and State. He gave me his counsel patiently and kindly. I went into his office one morning and playfully hailed him as "Daddy," because of his seniority in service, and he in the same spirit replied by calling me "Son." After that he was always to me "Daddy" and I was always to him "Son."

I saluted him in that way the last time we met, which was only two days before his death. He had recently come through a trying political campaign. He showed the marks of it. Though apparently in good health there was something about him upon second look that indicated that the strenuous contest through which he had come had left its impression upon him, had wearied him more than the usual campaign. Two days later I heard of his death.

I went to his funeral. It was attended by thousands. People had gathered from all over his district, a large and rugged district, to pay him their final respect. Many of those present were not men who ordinarily attend such occasions. They were chiefly of the people. Many of them were common men, who did not have fine clothes, men with hard hands and with the marks of toil upon them.

The friend of poor and humble men had gone. They stood about with tears in their eyes. It was a tribute such as is rarely paid to the memory of any man. It is such as I would like to have when my time comes to go.

JOHN L. BURNETT was born in Cherokee County, Ala., in the seventh congressional district, which he had the honor to represent in the House for over 20 years. He lived all his life in that district and died there. His district at the end was composed of the counties of Blount, Cherokee, Cullman, Dekalb, Etowah, Marshall, and St. Clair. There is a small city in the district, Gadsden, in which he lived in his later years. In that city there are a few who do not have their origin in that section, and there is occasionally one who was born overseas.

In the county of Cullman there is a small old-time colony of German settlers, of which there remains perhaps three or four hundred who were born overseas. Aside from these the seventh district is composed wholly of what might be called "old-fashioned Americans," that is, people of old British stock, whose ancestors came to this country so long ago that they have lost track of when they came, whose ancestors were the hardy pioneers who carved this Republic out of its original virgin wilderness.

No finer people live in America than those of the seventh congressional district of Alabama. If there are any real Americans, these are they. They are hospitable, intelligent, alert, patriotic, brave, but above all, liberty-loving. They are not strongly partisan in the political sense. Politically, the district may be said to be independent in a large respect. The elections are always close. The opposition is not so much partisan as it is independent. It is a division of opinion, a real opposition.

Representing this people, JOHN L. BURNETT came to Congress for over 20 years—worthily representing them, truly and accurately representing them—representing them at

their best, at their noblest, at their highest. That they loved him, that they honored him, was meet. He was one of them, he loved them, he understood them, and no noble impulse they felt but he responded to; his heart beat in answer to their every aspiration.

We honor ourselves in honoring the memory of this good man.

ADDRESS OF MR. FESS, OF OHIO

MR. SPEAKER: I want to add my tribute to the memory of Mr. BURNETT. With the rest of you I do not believe that any man can be more deeply stirred than by an appreciative sentiment in honor of a really good man. I have listened to the encomiums that have been paid, and I know that they are not formal—they are every one heartfelt and spontaneous. They are tributes that are gladly paid, and most certainly warranted by the type of life of the man to whom they are paid. Mr. BURNETT was one of the first men who attracted my attention when I came to the House. It was largely by his manner of presenting a case from the floor of the House, his character in debate, that my attention was attracted to him.

Some men, when they arise, will drive you from their position, but Mr. BURNETT was a man who was convincing. He compelled the reason, and although you might not agree with him, you always respected him. However much he was appreciated on the side of the aisle where he always sat, I do not think he was more greatly appreciated there than he was on this side of the aisle. I noticed him in the manner of the presentation of the immigration bill. I was in entire sympathy with his position. There were others on both sides of the aisle very pronounced against his position. At times in the running debate it would appear to me that the opposition was quite powerful and sometimes was winning the debate, but that fear always was allayed whenever Mr. BURNETT took the floor to clean up matters. He was more than an advocate. He was an expositor, and when he spoke he always added information. He was one of the men the House was always glad to see arise to address it.

I want to pay this brief tribute to him as a man who never was found fault with by the Republican side because he was a Democrat. He was always more than a party man. There are those who speak on political lines who always command respect from those who differ with them, because they are beyond mere partisan advocates. Mr. BURNETT was from the sunny South, and yet his impulses and passions were for the whole Nation.

I rise on the Republican side of the aisle to speak my tribute to the memory of this beloved colleague. Attention has been called to that quality of his which was so wonderfully displayed about the hotel where he resided with respect to children. That was the feature about him that seemed to impress me more than anything I have known in the life of this good man. I lived at the hotel with him for quite a while, and Saturday night was always a gala night with the children of the hotel. They were to be found in one room, and Mr. BURNETT was the center of attraction and was directing their activities. From Saturday night to the next Saturday night they were planning, and would go through the dining room and speak to individual members—"Come to our entertainment Saturday night." I want to indorse what one gentleman has said, that if a man, no matter how lofty his position, will always hold himself ready to sympathize with the interests of childhood, he will write upon his career the word "great." I deem it a privilege to add this word of tribute to a man who proved himself a real friend, a valuable citizen, and a power for right ideals in public life.



ADDRESS OF MR. STEAGALL, OF ALABAMA

MR. SPEAKER: We have met to-day to acknowledge the universal and inevitable sway of death. Since the time sin entered the Garden the shadow of death has darkened the pathway of man. It knows no class and favors no clime. It is a penalty that must be paid alike by prince and pauper. To-day the stern monarch invades the hut of the humble and poor to put an end to misery and want and woe; to-morrow he walks with dauntless tread up the stony pathway to the gilded mansion and hushes forever the revelry of the rich. By one stroke he removes the derelict, whose departure disturbs not nor hurts the welfare of humanity; by another he closes a great career at the hour of its highest honor and opportunity.

When JOHN LAWSON BURNETT passed away there came to its end on this earth a life which all the way from childhood to its close was spent in useful toil and noble service. We can not understand why he should be called from among us in the hour of his greatest usefulness, when his rare ability and ripe experience are most needed by his fellows. Such a decree of Providence can not be fathomed by human wisdom.

When Mr. BURNETT was a child 4 years old his father died, leaving the widow and three small boys, poor and unaided, to take up the battle of life. In early boyhood Mr. BURNETT began to contribute to the support of the family. He worked on the farm and as a miner and studied at night under the instruction of his mother. She was a woman of education and culture, and began early the cultivation and training of the son, which in large part formed the foundation for his career. When he entered the common schools he divided his time between his work and his educational pursuits.

During this period of trial he was in constant contact with the stern realities of life, developing a common-sense understanding of affairs and an attachment to the plain people. When he had made sufficient progress to enable him to secure a position as teacher he taught and attended school alternately. Finally, by his own efforts and at his own expense he took a course of law at Vanderbilt University. The habits of industry formed in boyhood characterized his course as a student of law both before and after his admission to the bar. In the practice of his profession, as before, obstacles encountered were met with a determination and purpose that only brought development and progress. As a lawyer his growth was steady and continual. He achieved no sudden nor unsubstantial successes. Every step forward was reached by patient toil and earnest effort, to be followed always by further progress.

The heights by great men reached and kept  
Were not attained by single flight,  
But they while their companions slept  
Were toiling upward in the night.

From the time of his admission to the bar to his election to Congress his growth was without interruption. He was industrious, high-minded, conscientious, and held a high place in the front ranks of the lawyers of his State.

His first political activity was as a member of the House of Representatives of Alabama, in which position he served one term, taking high rank among the members of that body. Some years later he was nominated when not a candidate and elected State senator from his senatorial district. Again, he soon won an enviable place in the highest legislative body of his State, serving with marked credit to himself and to his constituents. Mr. BURNETT was

always modest and unpretentious. He never made the mistake, too common among men, of taking himself too seriously. He seemed never to think of the things he had accomplished, but was always seeking opportunity for some new service. He was ever ready to meet responsibilities that arose, never lacking the courage to follow where duty and conviction pointed the way. He was a brave and stubborn fighter, yet always considerate of others, maintaining a moderation and modesty that commanded admiration.

An incident typical of his character occurred in the convention in which he was first nominated as the candidate of his party for Congress. Several names were before the convention, but he was not a candidate when first presented for the nomination. It was well understood that the nominee would have a stubborn contest that would be hard to win. Mr. BURNETT was a delegate in the convention, and when his name was offered arose immediately and insisted that a stronger man might be found to lead his party. But his protest only served to deepen the impression that he possessed the qualities and attainments essential to successful leadership. He was nominated, and accepted the mandate of his party and won a triumphant victory. He established himself in the confidence of his people in a way that for 20 years made him invincible in a district torn by partisan strife seldom surpassed in any congressional district in the Union. He was a man of strong convictions and without fear in following them. He was not the type of politician to follow the line of least resistance. His sense of duty constituted his guide. Such a man was, of course, bound to meet with opposition, but he soon established a reputation for courage and common honesty which many times commanded the support even of those who did not agree with him.

During all the changing issues and vicissitudes of his 20 years' service in Congress his hold upon the confidence of his constituents was unbroken and the people of the entire State of Alabama regarded him as one of their ablest and most valuable public servants. There had been for years before his death a desire throughout the State that he should become a candidate for governor, but his work in Congress was too important and the need for his service too unceasing for him ever to turn loose.

I have known no Member of the House more suited to service here, no one of deeper devotion to the interests of the masses, no one who possessed in higher degree the courage needed in this body. I shall never forget a conversation had with him when the war resolution was pending. No one knew better than he that the resolution would be adopted and that the feeling and excitement to follow would be productive of great resentment against those who saw fit to oppose the passage of the resolution. But he believed that the honor and welfare of the Nation could best be protected and promoted by declining to enter the horrible conflict, and, so believing, he voted against the passage of the resolution. I voted with the majority of the House, but I have always honored him for his courageous course. No Member of this House was more loyal than he to the cause of the Allies in the struggle to beat back the invading hordes of the German military machine and save the civilization of the world.

Mr. BURNETT measured up to the highest standard in this great body. He was an untiring worker and allowed nothing of importance to escape his painstaking attention. He was one of the ablest debaters who ever sat in this House. He was loyal always to the true principles of his party, but never allowed partisanship to supplant his patriotism. Few men on either side have ever commanded deeper or more genuine respect among the members of the opposing

party. He sought always to find the truth and to serve his country. He was a true representative of all that is best in our national life—the highest type of American patriot.

It was as a member and as chairman of the Committee on Immigration that he rendered his greatest service. For years and years he fought to arouse public opinion to an appreciation of the dangers involved in the admission of millions of foreigners unfitted for American citizenship. A deep student of this subject, he saw with clear vision the wisdom of protecting the Nation against the vast hordes of irresponsibles whose presence among us has proven so great a menace. The dastardly attempt to accomplish his death by a bomb sent him through the mails was in itself a tribute to his patriotic effort to protect the Nation against those who would destroy American institutions. Could he have had his way, we should not now be confronted with the difficult task of dealing with the undesirables who have been admitted within our borders. He well foresaw and sought industriously to prevent the disease that others are now undertaking to cure. Real statesman that he was, he grasped the importance of correcting the evils inherent in our national life and preserving an electorate devoted to true Americanism.

He understood that the real danger to the perpetuity of this Republic lies not in the invading army of any possible foreign foe; that our safety depends upon our ability to preserve the sacred principles and ideals upon which our Government was founded, and he knew that these institutions can never be safe, except in the hands of men schooled in our scheme of government and devoted to the principles of liberty regulated by law.

His great work was unfinished, but he won high place in the Nation's history. He has left an impress on legislation and public thought that will last through succeeding years. He served well his party and his country. He devoted his

life to the uplift of humanity and the betterment of the world. He was too reverential and unpretentious to parade before men any profession of piety, but if it be true, as I devoutly believe, that we reap as we sow, rich, indeed, must be his eternal reward! A good father, a devoted son, a faithful husband, an able, courageous statesman, a great democrat, an unsullied patriot, a noble, knightly, unselfish soul, his death is a loss to his country and the world.

Mr. HEFLIN assumed the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

ADDRESS OF MR. STEENERSON, OF MINNESOTA

MR. SPEAKER: Having served in the House with Mr. BURNETT for nearly 17 years, I necessarily became acquainted with him, and I deem it a high privilege to join now in paying tribute to his memory.

When we realize that nine-tenths of the legislation in Congress is really nonpartisan, it is easily explained that in the course of time men engaged in legislative duties, especially those who are active workers, must necessarily become pretty well acquainted. I had occasion to appear before the two committees of which Mr. BURNETT was chairman, the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds and the Committee on Immigration. All Members, especially those from the country districts, like to appear before the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds and during his chairmanship we always received a courteous and considerate hearing.

I was present at hearings before the Committee on Rules on the immigration bill, which he championed; and on these and various other occasions I learned to admire him greatly.

As has been said here, few Members on the other side enjoyed more friendships on this side of the aisle than he did. He was admired for his splendid abilities, and especially for his brilliant oratory. It has been pointed out here that he was unexcelled in debate under the five-minute rule, and that was true. He commanded the art of oratory to a high degree, but he never employed it for a base purpose. When he played upon the emotions of his hearers it was to arouse them to a realization of the cause which he sought to further and explain.

There was one characteristic about the man, and I regard that as the chief distinction of his nature. That was his love for the genuine, for the real, and his hatred of sham and pretense everywhere. He believed in what he advocated, and he advocated it because he believed in it. He was not a slave to partisanship. It may be truly said of him that he carried his sovereignty under his own hat, but so far as it did not conflict with his view of right and wrong, of course he was loyal to the party to which he belonged.

Another distinguishing feature of his character was his intense love of his country and its institutions. He believed in representative government, and he believed that representative government implies confidence and faith in your fellow men. I often talked with him about this question of immigration. He believed that in order to preserve our free institutions it was necessary to exclude not only the illiterate and defective, but also those, however well educated, who professed hostility to all government or to our form of government. Obviously he was right. The principles of the Constitution of the United States, embodying as they do the best form of representative government, have gone forward until they have achieved the admiration of the world.

But that has been possible only because of the character of the people of the country. The people must have high ideals, must believe in progress and in justice and in law and order, and, above all, they must have faith in their fellow men, before representative government can be a complete success; and because we have had faith, more love, and fellowship among our people our Government has produced the wonderful results which entitles it to the good opinion of the world. A man who professes and preaches the doctrine of hate and envy or whose life principle is selfishness and distrust can not become a part of



such a government. The success of representative institutions is itself a refutation of the age-old slander that man was incapable of self-government. Mr. BURNETT, as has been so eloquently stated, rendered valuable services in the advocacy of stringent immigration policy on the part of our Government. There is no doubt but that if his views had been listened to and observed and earlier recognized we would not now have the difficulties that we are having as the result of a too liberal and indiscriminate policy on this subject.

Mr. BURNETT is dead. His friends shed tears of love at his bier. But his works live and will continue to be a potent influence for good and the advancement of civilization and the welfare of mankind throughout the world forever.

There is no death—the thing that we call death  
Is but another, sadder name for life,  
Which is itself an insufficient name,  
Faint recognition of that unknown Life—  
That Power whose shadow is the Universe.

ADDRESS OF MR. McDUFFIE, OF ALABAMA

MR. SPEAKER: I have always heard it said, and I verily believe, that "To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die." And so, though his flesh and blood have passed from his scene of earthly usefulness, the spirit and memory of JOHN L. BURNETT will remain with us throughout our lives.

Unfortunately for me, and I have always deemed it unfortunate, I did not intimately know Mr. BURNETT. The first and only time I ever saw him was on this floor on the 3d of March, 1919, when he invited me to sit by him during the closing hours of the Sixty-fifth Congress, and the last hours he spent in this Hall. And while my acquaintance was not intimate, yet I have always known him by that reputation he bore in Alabama and in these United States as a man, an affectionate father, a tender and loving husband, a splendid statesman, and the highest type of American citizen. And, believing so well all that has been said of him this day, I am sure that on the final day his spirit heard that voice which said: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things. I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joys of thy Lord."

And, while we miss him and mourn his loss, we can but find some consolation in the thought of him, that the world was made better that he lived in it. I am reminded of him when I recall that "he has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much; who gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a

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ADDRESS OF MR. McDUFFIE, OF ALABAMA

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rescued soul; who always looked for the best in others and gave the best he had; whose life was an inspiration, and whose memory a benediction."

A bright, brave memory, his the stainless shield,  
No shame defaces, and no envy mars.  
When our far future's records are unsealed  
His name will shine among the morning stars.

## ADDRESS OF MR. RAINEY, OF ALABAMA

MR. SPEAKER: It had been my purpose to dwell somewhat at length on the life, character, and public service of my distinguished predecessor, the Hon. JOHN L. BURNETT, but these have already been gone into fully by many of his colleagues who served with him in the House. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I shall content myself with a few brief remarks in tribute to the memory of this eminent man.

He lived a life of intense action—he fought and overcame tremendous obstacles. His burning desire was achievement in legislation for the protection of his people against the flood of undesirable immigration from foreign shores. The signal success of this great endeavor is marked by his untiring work in committee sessions, the stormy battles upon the floor where he stood as the champion of the Burnett immigration bill, the final passage of that measure over the President's veto, and the ultimate writing of that law upon the statute books of the Nation, now standing as guard and warden against ignorant, criminal, and undesirable immigration.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to know Mr. BURNETT intimately for many years. I recall the last conversation I had with him. It was shortly before he passed away. When next I saw him he lay in his casket, motionless and still in death. I looked for a while upon those well-known features, then I turned and saw the great concourse of his friends passing in an almost endless stream to gaze for the last time upon their friend. Amid the beautiful ritualistic ceremonies of Masonry his earthly remains were lowered to their last resting place.

Mr. Speaker, it has been well said that in the midst of life we are in death. The moment we begin to live, that

moment also we begin to die. Short days ago upon this floor you heard the voice and felt the presence of him in whose honor and memory we have assembled here to-day. Though his lips are sealed in the eternal silence of the grave, and he sleeps the last long sleep, yet he still lives in the hearts of those who loved and honored him in life, and now in death pay tribute to his memory. I speak not for myself alone, but I voice the sentiment of the people of my district. Through me as their Representative they too pay tribute and homage to his memory and honor to his name.

I have known Hon. JOHN L. BURNETT from the days of my youth. Indeed, he was the first man for whom I ever cast a ballot upon attaining my majority. He was the invincible victor for more than 20 years in every political campaign in which he participated in the seventh district of Alabama. For more than 20 years he was the standard bearer of his party, and never did he permit that standard to trail in the dust. As his successor in Congress and as his political opponent in two campaigns, I can well say of him that in battle he was fearless and valiant, quick to repel an assault, strong and aggressive, and yet when the contest had concluded he was equally as prompt to forgive and forget. For him no scars remained and, like a brave warrior, when the battle was over he sheathed the sword.

It was this magnanimous spirit that contributed to his power and aided in maintaining his prestige throughout a long and useful career. Born in Alabama, he sleeps beneath the sod of his native State. His feet came to the end of life's toilsome journey. He laid down his burden by the wayside and, as befalls the common fate of man, succumbed to the universal dominion of death.

In his youth JOHN L. BURNETT lived in the days of the Civil War. He felt the pangs of poverty, beheld the sufferings of those he loved, and endured the hardships of

those dark days. To his eternal credit be it said that he braved all these, and from a poor plowboy he went into the mines as a laborer, then into the schoolroom as a teacher, worked his way through the law department of Vanderbilt University, gained admission to the bar, and soon became recognized as a lawyer.

JOHN L. BURNETT not only rose from obscurity to State renown, but ultimately, through his vast work as chairman of the Committee on Immigration, his fame spread over the Nation. It is a striking and a tragic thing that in life his great ambition was to write upon the statute books of the Nation a perfect immigration law and that his fatal illness came upon him as he was delivering a speech on that subject. He fell in the line of his duty. He died bravely in the harness. His work on the great problems of immigration stands as a monument to his memory. The love and the loyalty enshrined in the hearts of his thousands of friends constitute yet another memorial. These shall endure during the years to come. His name thus engraved, the corrosive hand of time shall not soon efface.

ADDRESS OF MR. ALMON, OF ALABAMA

MR. SPEAKER: It would be easy to write a long biography or make a lengthy eulogy on the life and character of our loved and lamented friend and colleague, Hon. JOHN L. BURNETT, of Alabama, but to tell the story of a life so full of love and loyalty, sacrifice and service, unselfishness and devotion to duty in a few words or a few lines, even, is a difficult thing to do.

There is so much of praise and appreciation that could be said that I am going to add just a few words to say that I, too, loved him and honored him. I regret exceedingly that it was not my privilege to be present at the memorial service which was held for him last Sunday in the House of Representatives, to mingle my voice with the voices of the men who stood there to pay tribute to the memory of this grand and good man; to recount with them his splendid attributes, attainments, and achievements; to express with them our sorrow, our deep sense of loss, and the shock we felt at his sudden death.

I have read with great interest and intense pride every word that was spoken in eulogy of him, and I rejoice in knowing that no meed of praise could be too great for him.

His passing seemed to some of us most untimely, but some very wise man has said: "He lives longest and best who has acquired and ministered to the greatest number of friends and loved ones." Measured by this standard, Mr. BURNETT had lived long and lived well, for wherever he went he gathered around him a host of friends and admirers. He was himself a true and faithful friend, a man of the highest type, for he was a Christian, a gentleman, a statesman, a devoted husband, and loving father.

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE BURNETT

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Every day we miss his cordial greeting, his wise counsel, his manly courage, his influence for good in all things, and we shall miss him more and more as they days go by. We shall always cherish his memory. With bowed heads and heavy hearts we reverently say:

Father, in Thy gracious keeping  
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.



ADDRESS OF MR. BLACKMON, OF ALABAMA

MR. SPEAKER: I presume there was no Member of this House who enjoyed a more cordial personal relation than that which existed between myself and the late lamented Hon. JOHN L. BURNETT, to whose memory we are to-day paying tribute. I knew Mr. BURNETT as a lawyer. He possessed all the qualities that go to make a good lawyer. I knew him as a Member of Congress, and all who served with him are glad to testify to his splendid ability as a legislator. In the death of Mr. BURNETT the United States of America suffered a distinct loss. Mr. BURNETT believed that in the admission of a certain class of foreigners the happiness and welfare of this country was seriously menaced. Those who took an opposite view to him on this subject and fought his untiring efforts and energy along this line all now agree that he was right. Mr. BURNETT paved the way for ridding this country of the anarchists, Bolsheviks, and the reds. That he could not have lived to see the fruits of his untiring labor and energy is to be lamented.

In his private life among his friends he was as gentle and lovable as a woman. I shall never forget the many kind things he did for me when I first came to Congress. It seemed to give him genuine pleasure to give me the benefit of his long experience here. He carried me to a number of the places in the Capital where it was necessary for me to get my different assignments and otherwise familiarize myself with the different departments with which I had to subsequently deal. It seemed to give him a great deal of pleasure to do this, and I was not the only beneficiary of the many acts of kindness which Mr. BURNETT extended to the new Member of Congress.

Mr. BURNETT was devoted to my children—not only to mine, but to all children, in fact. I lived with him for several years at the Congress Hall Hotel, and “Uncle Johnnie,” as he was called by my children and the other children in the hotel, was loved with that devotion which was to me remarkable. On Saturday nights, even after he had gone through a strenuous week’s work, he would give the children concerts, and in that way made hotel life to the youngsters worth while.

It is impossible for one in a short space of time to point out the many splendid traits of character which this truly great statesman possessed. In his death I lost a real friend, his family lost a true and good husband and father, and the country lost a statesman of the highest order.

ADDRESS OF MR. DYER, OF MISSOURI

MR. SPEAKER: One of the sad duties devolving upon us as Members of Congress is to note the deaths of those whom we have learned to love and to respect here as our colleagues.

Our life is but a dream;  
Our time, as a stream  
Glides swiftly away,  
And the fugitive moment  
Refuses to stay.

The arrow is flown,  
The moments are gone;  
The millennial year  
Rushes on to our view,  
And eternity is here.

I have been particularly grieved, as I am sure the membership generally have been, at the departure of some of those whom we esteemed so highly.

This morning we meet to pay tribute to the memory of another splendid, worthy Representative of the great South, Congressman BURNETT. I also knew him well. I had talked with him on many occasions. Our offices in the House Office Building were near each other.

MR. BURNETT was a real gentleman and a real Representative, and to-day as we meet to pay tribute to his memory we deeply mourn his loss. This great Republic of ours is made up of men of different feelings, different aspects, different traits; but as we come together and meet here to work for the greatness and glory of our country I have found but little difference in our common desire to serve the Nation as well as the section from which we come. Those of us who have had the privilege

of associating with men like Mr. BURNETT are proud that we have been able to serve with them. Their going is our loss. The American people lose greatly when such men as these go from public life, but their example encourages us who remain to renew our obligations and to be more faithful in the discharge of our public duties.

In former times the minds of the Members of this body were directed to questions that are no longer paramount and no longer of great interest. In former days men were bitter, but as the years have healed the wounds caused by the differences of the past we are all striving to be the better and the more worthy Representatives. I know that this Congress has not had in it abler or better or truer friends of this great Republic than the men whom we meet here to honor to-day, and I wish that I were able to express in words what I feel and what I am sure the Members of this House feel toward these two gallant souls whose lives have gone out forever.

Humbly I pay tribute to the memory of our colleagues who have gone, and I desire to record for the benefit of posterity and of the loved ones left behind by this gallant man my appreciation of his personal worth and of the value of his services to his State and to the Republic.

And when earth's last picture is painted  
And the tubes are twisted and dried;  
And the oldest colors have faded,  
And the youngest critics have died,  
We shall rest, and faith we shall need it,  
Lie down for an aeon or two,  
'Till the Master of all good painters,  
Shall set us to work anew.  
And those who were good shall be happy;  
They shall sit in a golden chair,  
They shall splash at a ten-league canvas  
With brushes of camel's hair;

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ADDRESS OF MR. DYER, OF MISSOURI

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They shall have real saints to draw from—  
Magdalene, Peter, and Paul—  
They shall paint for an age at a sitting  
And never get tired at all;  
And only the Master shall praise us,  
And only the Master shall blame,  
And no one shall work for money,  
And no one shall work for fame,  
But each for the joy of the doing,  
And each in his separate star  
Shall paint the thing as he sees it,  
For the God of things as they are.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In accordance with the resolution already adopted the House stands adjourned until to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 50 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until Monday, January 26, 1920, at 12 o'clock noon.



## PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

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MONDAY, *May 19, 1919.*

Mr. BANKHEAD. Mr. President, I send to the desk resolutions for which I ask immediate consideration. I give notice that at some future date I shall ask the Senate to set apart a time for the purpose of paying tribute to the memory of the deceased Representative.

The resolutions (S. Res. 10) were read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. JOHN LAWSON BURNETT, late a Representative from the State of Alabama.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

Mr. BANKHEAD. As a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 12 o'clock and 50 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Tuesday, May 20, 1919, at 12 o'clock meridian.

TUESDAY, *May 20, 1919.*

Mr. Hempstead, the enrolling clerk of the House of Representatives, appeared and delivered the following message:

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"Also, that the House communicates to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. JOHN LAWSON BURNETT, late a Representative from the State of Alabama, and transmits resolutions of the House thereon."

MONDAY, *January 26, 1920.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by D. K. Hempstead, its enrolling clerk, transmitted resolutions on the life, character, and public services of Hon. JOHN L. BURNETT, late a Representative from the State of Alabama.

WEDNESDAY, *March 2, 1921.*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. President, on account of the recent death of one of my colleagues in the House and the fact that the resolutions came over from the House at a late hour in respect to another colleague who has passed away, it is desired at an early date to hold memorial services. We are approaching the closing hours of the Congress. I ask unanimous consent that a short time may be set aside this afternoon to offer resolutions in reference to the late JOHN L. BURNETT, of Alabama, and that a few short speeches may be made. I ask that at 3 o'clock the unfinished business may be laid aside for that purpose. It will not take long to dispose of it.

Mr. POINDEXTER. I have no objection.

The VICE PRESIDENT. There being no objection, the order will be entered.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. President, the Senate by order has set apart the hour of 3 o'clock for eulogies on two late Representatives from the State of Alabama, and as that hour has about arrived, if there is no objection, I will ask that the Senate proceed under that order.

I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the resolutions of the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FERNALD in the chair). The Chair lays before the Senate the resolutions of the House of Representatives, which will be read.



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PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

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The reading clerk read the resolutions, as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES,

*January 25, 1920.*

*Resolved*, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. JOHN L. BURNETT, late a Member of this House from the State of Alabama.

*Resolved*, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House, at the conclusion of the exercises of this day, shall stand adjourned.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. President, I submit the following resolutions and ask for their adoption.

The resolutions (S. Res. 469) were read and considered by unanimous consent, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the business of the Senate be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of the Hon. JOHN L. BURNETT, late Member of the House of Representatives from the State of Alabama.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary communicate a copy of these resolutions to the family of the decedent.



## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

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### ADDRESS OF MR. UNDERWOOD, OF ALABAMA

MR. PRESIDENT: We stand in the closing hours of a dying Congress. The hour is fast approaching when friendships of many years' standing must part and go their separate ways. We can not but feel in our inner hearts a note of sadness as we realize the ties that bound many of us together are about to sever, and in this hour we halt the column in its march along the legislative highways to recall the memory of our friends and colleagues who served loyally with us in life and passed to the great beyond within the life of this Congress.

The State of Alabama asks you to halt the legislative battle for an hour to do reverence to the memory of two of our honored sons, JOHN LAWSON BURNETT, who was elected from the seventh district of Alabama to the Sixty-sixth Congress, but died before it convened, and FRED L. BLACKMON, of the fourth district of Alabama, who served until a few weeks ago, when he was called to his fathers.

JOHN LAWSON BURNETT was born at Cedar Bluff, Cherokee County, Ala., January 20, 1854. When he was only 4 years old he lost his father, and his widowed mother had three children to care for and the burden of life to face unaided. As soon as he was able to do so, Mr. BURNETT went to work to aid in the support of his mother and two brothers. He was not afraid of labor and worked in the coal mines and the fields of Alabama, studying at night to obtain the rudiments of his education. Finally he was able to attend the common schools of Cherokee County, and then amassed sufficient funds to carry him to the Wesleyan Institute in Georgia, where he received his early

education. Finally, after hard work and study, he was able to enter the Vanderbilt University, graduated at the age of 22, and was admitted to the bar. If there ever was a truly self-made man, JOHN L. BURNETT was the man, striving as he did from his early youth through hardship and privation to attain ultimate success. He was an excellent and successful lawyer, obtaining prominence among the best in his native State. His sterling worth and high character were early recognized by his home people, and at the age of 30 he was elected to the House of Representatives in the General Assembly of Alabama, and two years later was elected to the State senate, serving in both with distinction. Shortly afterwards he was named by the Democratic Party as their standard bearer and elected by his people as a Member of the Fifty-sixth Congress. He was reelected for the 10 succeeding terms and served for 20 years before his untimely death. During his membership in the House of Representatives he was recognized as a staunch and unyielding Democrat, ably sustaining the great principles of his party; but he was more than that: He was an American first, last, and all the time, always ready to serve and sacrifice for our common country rather than yield to the call of political expediency. He was a hard and faithful worker in Congress, a student of the principles of government, and he never undertook to espouse a cause without a thorough understanding of it.

We who knew JOHN BURNETT best loved him for his sturdy and rugged character, his honesty of purpose, and his faithful friendship. He has gone to the great beyond, but his memory will always be cherished by his colleagues.

ADDRESS OF MR. ROBINSON, OF ARKANSAS

MR. PRESIDENT: The Senate has scarcely known a busier time than that through which we are now passing. We pause in the midst of important duties to pay tribute to the memory of two departed friends. Both of them served with ability and distinction in the House of Representatives.

JOHN L. BURNETT, of Alabama, enjoyed the cordial friendship of all his associates. He was active, diligent, and capable in the performance of his duties as a Representative in Congress. It is seldom that anyone has enjoyed a more liberal experience than was the lot of Mr. BURNETT. Trained in hardships, he proved himself equal to every task which he assumed. He was never known to betray a friend or to neglect a duty. Mr. BURNETT's service extended over a period of many years. It was his privilege as well as his duty to deal with some of the gravest problems that have come to Congress during the last 25 years. I bear witness to the fact that he never failed to give careful study to the questions upon which it was his duty to reflect, and that he never feared to speak and vote as he was prompted to do by a sincere conviction of duty.

Another Representative from the same State recently has been called by death. The Senate honors itself in paying just and appropriate tributes to the name and service of JOHN L. BURNETT.

ADDRESS OF MR. MCKELLAR, OF TENNESSEE

MR. PRESIDENT: When I first came to the House of Representatives, some 10 years ago, one of the strong men of that body was JOHN L. BURNETT, to whose memory we pay tribute to-day. At that time he was chairman of the Immigration Committee of the House, and at that time the immigration question was probably one of the leading questions of the day. An immigration bill providing for restriction of immigration by a literacy test had been passed by both bodies during President Taff's administration, as I recall, and he had vetoed it. Under the leadership of Mr. BURNETT another bill of similar character and having a similar purpose was passed by both bodies in Wilson's administration, and vetoed by President Wilson. The Senate and House overrode the veto of President Wilson, and the bill became a law. That fight was led by Mr. BURNETT in the House of Representatives in a masterly way.

He was a forceful speaker. Of the question of immigration he was a great student. He went to Europe and studied the question from that viewpoint as he studied it from every viewpoint here, and when he spoke he spoke as a man of authority. He was an authority upon that great question and did much to solve it. It was he who first in an official way brought the dangers of unrestricted immigration straight home to the American people. The law on that subject that we have recently passed is quite largely an outgrowth of his earnest and steadfast work on that subject. His work in the House was of the most effective kind. His services to his State were of the same character. He was a diligent, faithful, intelligent, and efficient legislator.

Mr. President, Mr. BURNETT was a man of the deepest conviction of right, a man of the highest purposes, a man who was unafraid in the performance of every public and private duty. The word "fear" was not known to JOHN L. BURNETT. His life was an open book. He was kindly, genial, and pleasant, especially to the younger and newer Members of the House. He was friendly to all; esteemed and respected by all for his splendid worth and for his many genial and lovable traits of character.

I know of no man who impressed himself on his fellow Members as a more genuine, a more sincere, a more honest, or a more upright man than JOHN L. BURNETT.

In every phase of life he took a man's part. A kindly, gentle, splendid man he was, and I honor and respect his memory. I am glad that the Senate of the United States has paused long enough in this busy session to permit a tribute to be paid to his life and character.

Alabama has sustained a great loss in his death. His friends miss his kindly fellowship. The House has been deprived of an able and splendid Member.

Mr. President, Alabama has indeed been unfortunate lately in the loss of her distinguished sons. Mr. BURNETT's death was followed by that of Congressman FRED L. BLACKMON, a Representative from the fourth Alabama district. His death was sudden and unexpected. He died while away from home.

Mr. President, I was born in the State of Alabama, in the district that was represented in the House of Representatives by Mr. BLACKMON for so many years. He lived near my home. He was educated by my eldest sister. I think the most of the education that he received was received at her hands. He was a splendid young boy. He was a good student. He had a splendid mind. When he arrived at manhood's estate he became a lawyer, having received his legal education at the University of



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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE BURNETT

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Alabama. He made a distinguished record there, and afterwards at the bar he quickly assumed a commanding position. He was successful in all that he attempted.

Turning to politics while still a young man, he was elected to the House of Representatives and was reelected five times, his period of service extending over 10 years. Popular in his own district, no one could defeat him. Though it was frequently tried, he always won by his ability, by his geniality, by his honesty and sincerity of purpose.

He did not always agree with probably most of his constituents; he frequently disagreed with them. I remember on the subject of prohibition his views did not accord with the majority views of his district, but in that manly, upright, honest, straightforward way of his, he voted his own convictions, and the people, while disagreeing with him upon that important question, always stood by him.

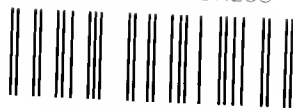
I knew him intimately in the House of Representatives. I loved him, and I think everyone else who knew him loved him—a kindly hearted man, a man of a noble soul, a man who had nothing of guile in his nature, a man who loved men because they were men, a man in whose word every one of his fellows had the most implicit confidence. His word was always as good as his bond. He stood high in the House. He was a member of the Post Office Committee in that body. He took an active and effective interest in all that came before that committee. He did much for roads and much for the building up of all the various branches of the Postal Service. I deeply regret his death, and shall ever cherish the memory of my departed friend.







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